THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no shortage of life saving drugs in CGHS dispensaries. Any drug prescribed by the Govt. Specialists, not available in the dispensary, is issued to the beneficiary after procuring the same from the Authorised Local Chemist on the basis of the individual prescription of the beneficiary. In case of emergency, an authority slip is issued to the beneficiary for collecting the medicine directly from the Authorised Local Chemist without making any payment.

(b) to (d) Yes. Sir, Indents have already been placed for procurement of medicines on the basis of the requirement projected by the CGHS dispensaries for ensuring adequate supply of medicines including essential drugs in the CGHS dispensaries.

**SARS symptoms in the Country**

4552. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT :

SHRI SURENDRA LATH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain persons have shown Suspected Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) symptoms in metros in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how these persons have been isolated and treated; and

(d) the preventive steps taken against SARS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has been reported in India which conform to the WHO case definition. However, as on 1st May, 2003, twenty laboratory positive (PCR) test) persons have been reported. They are from the States of Maharashtra (15) West Bengal (2), Tamil Nadu (1) and Punjab (1 initial PCR test positive).

(c) As a matter of abundant precaution the cases were isolated and treated in identified hospitals.

(d) Keeping in view the implications of an epidemic, Government of India has taken necessary steps which include the following:

- A High level Centre-State Joint Committee has been formed for close monitoring of the situation and providing technical assistance to all State Governments. Related technical inputs including patient management protocol, standard operating protocol and transfer protocol have been provided to the State Governments.
- Mandatory Screening has been introduced in all Ports and Airports for all the persons disembarking in India and a proforma has been prescribed for such purpose. The health care facilities at such Airports and Ports have been strengthened by deploying additional doctors and evolving a standard operating protocol. Health counters for screening have been opened in all such Airports and ports. The health staff is monitoring passengers of flights and ships arriving in India.
- Facilities for treatment of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in isolation have also been arranged in the Central Government Hospitals as also in other infectious Diseases Hospitals. The State Governments have identified hospitals with isolation facilities for treatment of SARS.
- To meet the immediate requirements, Central Goverment is procuring special respirators from Defence Research Development Organi ation for distribution to State Governments.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has obtained the required primers for preparing reagents to diagnose the viruses believed to be causing SARS. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune have been identified as the nodal agencies for laboratory investigation of any suspect/probable case.

**Supply of Catamine Drug**

†4553. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the supply of the cheaper drug Catamine, which has become the choice of foreign tourists, has been in abundance during the last one and half years and it is being carried by them by mixing with rose water;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.